

HE 40
THE PHYSICIAN TO THE PUBLIC.

13

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

AT THE

SIXTIETH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,

DELIVERED IN THE

ACADEMY OF MUSIC

APRIL 2, 1885.

BY

WILLIAM H. PANCOAST, A.M., M.D.,

*Professor of General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy; Corresponding Member of the
Société Clinique de Paris, etc., etc.*

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

PHILADELPHIA:

F. A. DAVIS, ATT'Y,

1217 FILBERT STREET,

1885.



224
59

THE PHYSICIAN TO THE PUBLIC.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

TO THE

GRADUATING CLASS

OF

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

AT THE

SIXTIETH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT,

DELIVERED IN THE

ACADEMY OF MUSIC

APRIL 2, 1885.

BY

WILLIAM H. PANCOAST, A.M., M.D.,

*Professor of General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy; Corresponding Member of the
Société Clinique de Paris, etc. etc.*

REPRINT FROM "THE MEDICAL BULLETIN."

PHILADELPHIA:

F. A. DAVIS, ATT'Y,

1217 FILBERT STREET.

1885.

CORRESPONDENCE.

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE,

PHILADELPHIA, March 25, 1885.

At a meeting of the Class, held this evening, it was—

Resolved, That a committee consisting of one, from each State and nationality represented, should be appointed to present the compliments of the Class to Professor William H. Pancoast, and request a copy of his Valedictory Address for publication.

By order

J. D. ORR, *President*.

J. C. OLLIVER, *Secretary*.

PHILADELPHIA, March 26, 1885.

Professor WILLIAM H. PANCOAST.

Dear Sir: We, the undersigned, a committee appointed by the president of the Graduating Class of 1885, take great pleasure in expressing the unanimous desire of the Class, for a copy of your Valedictory Address for publication. We sincerely hope that many students in the future may have the pleasure of listening to the eloquent and interesting lectures delivered by you, which we feel to have been of inestimable value to us. Wishing for you, our most beloved teacher, a bright and happy future,

We are most respectfully yours,

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|----------------------|
| J. W. Brander, | Tennessee | George S. Brown, | Missouri |
| J. D. Weaver, | Pennsylvania | William H. Bogle, | Kansas |
| P. C. Cornish, | Alabama | A. J. Downes, | Massachusetts |
| George E. Reading, | New Jersey | S. L. Swygert, | South Carolina |
| J. H. Dunning, | Indiana | H. C. Cunningham, | Texas |
| John V. Sheppey, | Delaware | William C. Cox, | Washington Territory |
| D. H. Richardson, | Maryland | Guy C. Rich, | New York |
| John M. McDowell, | Ohio | Max Dahlstroen, | Germany |
| J. B. Wright, | Kentucky | H. W. McElwee, | Virginia |
| S. L. Chapin, | Illinois | John C. Stewart, | Scotland |
| D. S. Green, | Minnesota | A. C. Getchell, | Maine |
| A. A. Kent, | North Carolina | S. Shimavonion, | Armenia |
| A. H. Martin, | Canada | J. T. Ross, | Georgia |
| A. F. Hustead, | West Virginia | Joseph Torkington, | England |
| C. M. Throckmorton, | Iowa | | |

Committee.

NO. 1100 WALNUT STREET,

PHILADELPHIA, March 26, 1885.

Gentlemen:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind communication of this inst., requesting a copy of my Valedictory Address for publication. I feel that I must comply, with the desire of the graduating class, expressed in so complimentary a manner. Pray accept for yourselves and the gentlemen you represent, my thanks for this mark of your esteem; and my earnest wish for your future happiness and prosperity.

Very sincerely, your friend,

WILLIAM H. PANCOAST.

To Messrs. J. D. Brander, J. D. Weaver, Geo. E. Reading, P. C. Cornish, and others,
Committee of the Class.

SUPPLEMENT.

THE PHYSICIAN TO THE PUBLIC.

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE, AT THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT, DELIVERED IN THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC, APRIL 2, 1885.

BY WILLIAM H. PANCOAST, A.M., M.D.,
Professor of General, Descriptive, and Surgical Anatomy; Corresponding Member of the Societe Clinique de Paris, etc.

GENTLEMEN: You have just received from the Honorable Board of Trustees, by the hand of its honored President, the "Summi Honores" of Jefferson Medical College. The goal to which you have so long looked, and striven so hard to reach, has been attained. The great exertions and the self-sacrifices that you have made, have gained at last their reward. After the long years of study and earnest preparation, you have passed successfully through the severe and impartial examination of the Faculty of the College. The Faculty, having thus been well satisfied with your merits and your attainments, have recommended you to the approbation of our Honorable Board of Trustees. By the authority invested in the Trustees, by the great State of Pennsylvania, under a charter of full university powers, they have this day, through their President, conferred upon you the highest honors that you can now receive from our institution. You this day receive the broad diploma of Jefferson Medical College, stamped with the great seal of authority. You are now enrolled as a regular physician in the ranks of our honored medical profession. Two weeks ago I told you that I would have the pleasure of meeting the graduates upon this interesting and important occasion. Now, on behalf of, and in the name of my colleagues of the Faculty, your honored professors; in the presence of this great assembly; in that of your friends and the friends of our school, I most heartily and sincerely congratulate you, on your attainment of this great distinction. I most sincerely hope that

this day will be a veritable "commencement" of a long life of usefulness and distinction. May every prosperity attend you. May the world in which you will live, learn to recognize you as its benefactor and its friend.

Gentlemen, you are well aware, that during your long course of study every inducement has been given you to perfect yourselves in every way. That continually, you have been taught by your different professors, that as medical men you must always be gentlemen; that the Hippocratic oath binds you now, as much as it did your predecessors; that the principle which underlies it, and our Code of Ethics, is the same that should govern every one.

It is the basis now of all gentlemanly action, as well as the foundation of our religion, to do to others as you would have others do to you. You have been thoroughly trained in this great principle, both by precept and example. I know this is fully impressed upon you, at this moment of the commencement of your new career. I therefore take this occasion, and in the presence of this vast audience, which so well represents the wide world without, to appeal to them as to the whole world, to appreciate you as they should.

For three years, and many of you for four years, in the office of your preceptor and then in our College, have devoted yourselves most earnestly to the study of your profession. The public, I am sure, do not thoroughly understand what that means. It means, as you and we well know, earnest and severe work. Only the well-informed of the great world know how severe the work is that you have just passed through. The public should know, that in our school, the spring and autumn courses of lectures unite the winter sessions. With the exception of the heated term of July and August, lectures are continually given. Practically there are two courses, a winter and a summer course each year. By dividing our courses of lectures and examinations into two parts: a middle and a

final one, the junior and the senior, or the fundamental and the practising branches, we arrange for a three years' course, which we advise and recommend, and which so many of you follow.

I earnestly believe, that we should continue to improve medical teaching in every way. I also think that the true American advance in medical teaching, is to examine students when they are well prepared; to give them every advantage of theoretical and practical teaching; work in the laboratories, and study at the bed-side in the hospitals. Then, whether it has taken two, three, or five years to master their studies; if well mastered, if they are proficient students, give them the credit for it. There is a great variety of talent. Some can master the principles of medicine in much less time, as you know, than others. We would not chain a Pegasus to an ordinary horse. We should not, in my opinion, imitate a Procrustean bed, to make every one fit it, by stretching them out or cutting them shorter.

So great, however, is the field of medical study, that it must always take some years for even the brightest intellect to master. You know, gentlemen, how long it has taken you, to prepare for the thorough examination that you have just passed. You have found it impartial, and severe enough. I know how you have dreaded the examinations, and how anxiously you have prepared for them. I feel assured that many old practitioners, accomplished by years of experience, with a reputation for great excellence in their different specialties, could not pass creditably the examination that you have just undergone, without preparing themselves anew. Doctors, recent graduates of other schools, are sometimes unable to meet the requirements of the standard of our school, and cannot gain our diploma. To obtain the necessary knowledge, our students work most laboriously. In the winter, from nine in the morning until ten o'clock at night, ten hours out of the twelve, in close, hard study. Each hour filled with teaching to be remembered, or practical work in the laboratory to be mastered; the remainder of the time should be left for repose and meals. Two or three hours of that time, however, must be spent in reading up with the lectures and arranging notes. When the country grows richer, the student can afford to take more time, and work more easily. I believe that

during the winter course the industrious student in our College, must spend about thirteen or fourteen hours in work. I believe that I am stating a fact, now well known, that during the lecture season, no students, as a class, in the world, work so assiduously as the American student.

The public should be informed, at how great an expense, not merely of money and time, but also of health, the medical student gains the knowledge, that is to make him its useful servant. During an observation of many years, from my student days on the benches, until now, I have had a long observation of medical students. I state, and my observation will be borne out by my colleagues, that the strain upon the vital forces of the student is very severe. He is not usually exposed directly to contagion; and in the dissecting-room, every precaution is taken to avoid poisoned wounds. But the steady, continuous strain upon the mind of the earnest student, with the confinement in lecture-rooms and laboratories; the change from home, and want of sufficient open-air life, make a marked deterioration in his vitality.

Only those possessing sufficient health should really study to become physicians. The idea that some among the public hold, that the young man not strong enough for severe work, is a proper person to devote to medicine, is a great mistake. We have seen good and promising men of bright intellects, with every qualification for distinguished success in our profession, save that of health—a good constitution—break down utterly; compelled to cease their studies, and advised by us to give up the study, as too severe a strain upon their health. But still more sad, painful, and melancholy to the Faculty and class alike, is it, when one among them sinks utterly, and dies in his harness of faithful students' work. What a pall is thrown over the whole college. How closely and sadly are we then all drawn together, in the common bond of brotherhood and sympathy. Sorrow for our lost comrade and pupil, sympathy for his loved ones, grieving over the vacant chair at their fireside. Thankful are we, your professors, that the Omnipotent has spared this class.

Our school is essentially an American one. Developed for, and adapted to the genius of Americans, traced back for its origin through the University of Pennsylvania, the mother

school of all in this country, to the great school of Edinburgh in its palmyest days, when Rush, Physick, and Shippen were among its matriculants.

The founder of the Medical Department of Jefferson Medical College, Dr. George McClellan, impressed the genius of his American development upon our school. Instead of imitating merely the British system, he obtained a full university charter, with all its rights and privileges. He then instituted for the first time in this country, the uniting together of practical and didactic teaching, under one roof—that of Jefferson Medical College. This plan of teaching has been imitated, by nearly all the great schools of the country. The regular and thorough course of lectures, the didactic; and then the principles applied, and their value shown by the same professor, in the benevolent service to the poor, in the public clinics. This has been of twofold advantage. By the talent of the Faculties, which then succeeded to the founder, the reputation of the school was made. Thousands of students, have availed themselves of these opportunities.

At this moment, I believe, we have the greatest number of living alumni in the country. Do the public appreciate, how great an advantage it has been to this city, that so many have gone out through the gates of our school to proclaim its merits; the many advantages that the city commercially possesses; also how much money they brought to spend in their support among its industries? The student's least expense, is that of his medical fees. The other advantage also is for the benefit of the public. The reputation of the successful clinics became so great, that vast numbers of the suffering, not only of this city and State, but of distant States, flocked to the amphitheatre for relief. So great is the reputation of the clinics at the college on Tenth Street, that the Honorable Board of Trustees, aided by the friends of the institution and also by the State, raised funds to build a hospital—a hospital worthy of the reputation of the clinics, and adjacent to the school on Sansom Street.

The wonderful activity of our School Hospital, you, gentlemen, can bear witness to. Compactly built, five stories high, in the centre of the city. Here, the streets being well paved and drained, there is no malaria or intermittent fever. The private rooms are at the top of the building, away from the noise of the streets

and the Hospital, with every convenience. A Clinical Hotel at the top of the house, constantly filled, as you well know, so that rooms must be spoken for in advance. A magnificent Amphitheatre for the clinics, one of the very largest, if not the largest, in the country.

Here, you can testify to the world is a wonderful amount of good done, and hard work also, by the Faculty and the Hospital Physicians and Surgeons; that all the year round, you have the benefit of the services of the Hospital Staff, or that of the Professors. That in the Medical Clinics, you have the advantage of studying from the standpoint of the Chair of Practice and that of Therapeutics. In the Surgical Clinics, from the Chair of Practical Surgery, the Chair of Principles, and also from that of Anatomy. In these clinics, I have had the opportunity of impressing upon your minds, the importance of a thorough knowledge of Anatomy. Not as a dead science, but the live anatomy that I have taught you. A medical and surgical anatomy that you must know, as it comes before you, in the person of every patient.

A Surgical Clinic is really one of the most dramatic scenes of our civilization. You, gentlemen, from the commodious seats placed around and above, have looked on day after day; watching, observing, and learning; often severe as well as just critics.

No critic is more critical than a medical student. He expects to see every operation well done, every case well diagnosed and well treated. In after years, when the responsibility of the same work falls to his lot, the weight is felt, and the difficulties are appreciated. He then remembers how easy it seemed to him, when he looked upon a skilled expert doing the same work, that he now finds so difficult. There has been a prejudice in the popular mind against medical students, as a class, due to the youthful gayety, even folly of some of you and our predecessor medical students. We, who know medical students well, can freely state to the public, that there are no set of men in the world who can be more easily controlled. An appeal to their better nature, always brings forth the proper response. The noble, high-toned man, shines up through the gayety of youth. How many mature, even elderly men and experienced practitioners of medicine, are also among the class. No humbug or sham work will it listen or attend to. While the medical student may dread the severe

examination, while he may be worried at the immense field of knowledge and study that the professors may show him, yet he respects him the more for his very earnestness, thoroughness, and knowledge. He wishes his professors to pour out the whole flood of knowledge before him, even if his students' bark be tossed and worried by the stream. He is glad to hear and see all, and that of the best, even if his mental digestion be disturbed and very imperfect. They watch, to see if the promises of the great school, will be thoroughly fulfilled. They know and understand their professors, as well as we do them. Day after day they see us before them, and they soon learn to appreciate us at our full value.

He who thinks that a class of medical students is composed of fools, makes a great mistake, and will be caught in his folly. The bright, observing intellects give tone to the rest, and even elevate the mental capacity of a class. The less bright will comprehend difficult truths the better, for the association while sitting in the class, than if alone. From out the ranks of the medical students, come the great benefactors of the human race. To their intelligence we, the Faculty, appeal, as competent witnesses of the thorough work done in our school, in the lecture-rooms, clinics, and laboratories; of our steady and constant efforts in the way of advanced and perfect medical teaching. They know, that our diploma requires, every year, additional earnest efforts to obtain. The alumni of our school know, that it increases in honor and reputation year by year. How great an advance, since the beginning of the modest school founded by McClellan, more than sixty years ago. Now we have a commodious college building, on Tenth Street. Within the last few years, it has been thoroughly refitted, with laboratories, attached to each chair, and actively employed. Also the admirable hospital adjacent, on Sansom Street, whose usefulness and activity outrun its means. The Honorable Board of Trustees, give their valuable services for the control and management of College and Hospital, without fee or pecuniary reward. The Faculty contribute from the rental of the chairs in which they labor, besides, what all may dispense in private charity. We need more money, for the greater development of our increasing usefulness, and even for what we are now doing.

You, graduates, and you, the great public,

can do no better deed, than to aid it and the Honorable Board of Trustees by giving of your own gains, and to encourage the benevolent to add to the means of the Hospital and the school.

You gentlemen know, that the standard of our school is among the very highest in this country; that no school stands higher than ours. It is one of the six schools in the United States, recognized by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The public should know, that our diploma is a passport, in all the medical schools and hospitals in Europe. Gentlemen now sitting on this platform, can bear testimony to the fact from their personal experience, as well as myself.

Sir Benjamin Brodie, in 1856, when I was walking the Hospitals in London, wished me to use it as a basis, for obtaining the diploma of the Royal College of Surgeons by examination.

The next year, my good friend, the famous Civiale, a noble gentlemen and ornament of our profession, requested me to do the same in Paris, wishing that I should settle there as his assistant. I found my diploma, however, sufficient for every opportunity of study, opening up all the medical avenues. I preferred living in our grand country, and in this good city of Philadelphia, under the protection of the diploma, giving every authority and right—the diploma of Jefferson Medical College. In Paris, at that time, there arose some trouble among the medical students; not among the Americans, I am proud to say. An order was then issued, obliging every one desiring to attend the hospitals, to prove that he was studying medicine or surgery, and to obtain a permit from the medical authorities. I had merely to prove, by a note from our national representative, that I was a graduate of Jefferson Medical College. I then at once received from the Bureau, of the General Administration of the Hospitals, the permit required. Our diploma is recognized, all the world over, as that of a great and thorough American school. So grand is the feeling of Brotherhood in our Profession, that one need only have the proofs that he belongs to this regular profession, to be taken by the right hand of fellowship; to be recognized and assisted, if need be, in any quarter of the civilized world.

If Europe were destroyed to-day, we could develop successfully without her. We are independent of her, and could advance in our profession as well as in everything else.

The graduates of our school, and the school itself, belong to the regular profession. The public should know that our regular profession has ennobled itself with works of learned science and benevolent actions.

It has been of incalculable value to the world, and has placed it under everlasting obligations. It has preserved and perpetuated a pure science and art of medicine, founded upon careful observations; great clinical study with thoughtful induction, traced back into the mists of the departed centuries.

The regular profession does not labor for mere selfish personal considerations. It cultivates all the means of health for its preservation, the study of hygiene, and the methods and manners of restoring from injury and disease to health. It engages in careful and earnest investigations, of the cause and nature of all epidemics; some of which every now and then, as the dreaded cholera, sweep over lands and peoples, carrying horror and destruction into homes and hearts, and devastation to the loveliest parts of the world. Our profession is now standing sentinel, and warning the community of the impending danger of cholera for the coming year. Suggesting the necessity of cleanliness and purity in cities, villages, and homes; pure water, fresh air, and clean streets. "Rebreathed air is poison; impure water at times spreads disease as fire explodes gunpowder."

"Filth, idleness and gluttony are the friends of death." We are giving now directions with regard to diet and food, advising medical inspection, compulsory notice of infection—better protections, than the best quarantine system, which has always proved more or less imperfect. If it could be made perfect, it would be a good guard. When the scourge comes, there will be members of our profession aiding, protecting and relieving the public; and sacrificing their lives for the benefit of the public. While we, as earnest and scientific physicians, stand guard at every avenue, where disease may enter, to do its dreadful and often fatal work, we are expected to be refined, cultivated, and high-toned gentlemen. Our mission is one of humanity. It awakens the warmest sympathy, and calls into active exercise, the most tender emotions of the soul. The distinguished Descartes once predicted, that all the great movements of the world of thought, in physics, in morals, and even in government, would at some future day,

be evolved out of the medical sciences; princes deem it well worthy, of their personal cultivation and devotion; a Bavarian prince is now, as I have read, a skilled ophthalmologist.

In 1856, Sir James Y. Simpson, told my father and myself, that, one day on returning to his home in Edinburgh after his daily rounds, a lady was announced among his patients. On taking a seat, she said: "What is there new, Sir James, in your science and practice? I have traveled up from London, where I am visiting the Queen, to have a chat with you about medical science." She then announced herself as a Russian Archduchess, sister of the Czar of Russia. The Romanoff family have always been much interested in the science of medicine.

During our Centennial Exhibition, a medical gentleman, with the rank of General, attached to the Russian Commission, told me, that one of the special commands he had received, was to see my father operate in private or at the Clinic of the College.

Indeed, our profession is engaged in ennobling studies. It is closely associated with the interests of every human life. We should indeed have influence in the world. Our work should be most warmly appreciated. The best of it is known only to ourselves. But the grand interests of our profession, are not thoroughly recognized—our scholarship is not always appreciated.

There are some persons who are scoffers and skeptics, and those who have a want of reverence for everything sacred; so it is not strange that there are also those, who vehemently denounce medicine and its earnest cultivators. But when their bodies are racked with pain, or feeling the pressure of infirmities, then seek they for relief; then turn they toward what they have reviled in health, and clamor for assistance and aids to health, or to save from the yawning tomb. The life of the scoffer cannot always be saved, but his suffering can be mitigated.

Our art often does wonders—almost seeming miracles—in spite of its acknowledged want of perfection. What is perfect in this transitory life? Yet, year after year, century after century, what wonderful progress it has made, and how developed and improved is our science, in this nineteenth century. Not perfected yet, hence there is work for you, gentlemen, for us and for all interested in saving hu-

man life, in allaying suffering. Time is fleeting, but art is long; hence, you and we, whose lives are but links united in a chain, to continue the unbroken existence of the profession of medicine, have our career of usefulness.

There is something for you, and all of us, professional brethren, to do; and if each, adding but his mite, does that, the chain is kept bright and strong. In spite of all cavil, the lofty position of our profession is recognized, not only by the civilized, but also by barbarous nations, From the far East to the wonderfully developed West, which now shakes hands with the Orient across the broad Pacific.

We, now, of the Occident, are giving back with increased accumulation, the knowledge which we formerly received from the Orient. Knowledge has followed the Star of Empire. Southey says of us:—

“All men hold in honor
The skilful leech. From land to land he goes,
Safe in his knowledge; the sword of war
Spares him; kings welcome him with costly gifts;
And he who late had from the couch of pain
Lifted a languid look to him for aid,
Beholds him with glad eyes, and blesses him,
In his first thankful prayer.”

The public does not thoroughly comprehend our profession, or the use of our Code of Ethics. It requires some education upon that point. Some call us, ignorantly or carelessly, allopaths, which we are not. Do not allow yourselves, gentlemen, to be ever so called. You and we are regular physicians. You have just received the broad Diploma of our School, stamped by its great Seal, under the grant of its Charter of full University powers, from the great State of Pennsylvania. Our School is a University establishment; this the public do not generally know. Our Medical Department we here to-day represent.

The Academical, fortunately for our Department of Medicine, is on the other side of the Alleghenies. The Jefferson College of Canonsburg, now associated with the Washington College, fortunately separated; and I say it with all respect to our other active and distinguished Department; as the honorable Board of Trustees in this city, is not embarrassed in the management of the affairs of the Medical, by the sometimes conflicting ones of the Academic. You gentlemen are now our confrères, Doctors of Medicine. That is what the M.D., *Medicinae Doctor*, on your door-plate or

window, will mean—not allopaths, nor paths of any sort. Who has ever seen the sign, “Allopathic Physician?” You now are enrolled with us, Doctors of Medicine, Philosophers in Medicine, constant students and thinkers of our science and art; earnest workers in developing and advancing them, so that they may benefit all mankind. This entitles you and us, to use every and any remedy, that will benefit the suffering and heal the sick or injured. Whatever is in the air above and around us, in the earth beneath, or in the waters about us, we can use if it can serve suffering humanity—if we can do so wisely, and justify such use at the Bar of our Profession; to the satisfaction of its honest and thinking members.

Some of the public charge us with being narrow and too conservative, that is not so; the profession of medicine has never refused to accept any suggestion or assistance, no matter from what source. Ofttimes slowly, but with an honest and wise conservatism. Wishing not to be rash, or to encourage experiments, dangerous to those entrusted to its care. If there is truth and good in the novelty, it is sure to win its way and be ultimately accepted by the regular practice. A prophet may have no honor in his own country. An improvement or invention may be opposed at home, from various causes, some of them, perhaps, interested. It will, however, be appreciated by the candid and unprejudiced abroad, and win its way.

Water treatment, which may be abused by the hydropathist; vapor bath, which was used as a quackery by the steam doctor, or steamopath, whom I have seen in my boyhood, riding his circuit in the country with a steam-box fastened to the back of his sulky. Capsicum and myrrh, the famous No. 6, of the Thomsonian, the movement cure, now the massage, electricity, the panacea of the electropath. The minute doses of the homœopath, which improved pharmacy has given to them and to us in the alkaloids and strong extracts, all these we use, and are justified in using, with judgment, and for the proper case; and we also know that by dilution things are not made stronger. From no source or direction do we refuse knowledge, that will advance science. Professor Oliver Wendell Holmes says, “From a monk we learned how to use antimony, from a Jesuit Father how to cure the ague, from a friar how to cut for stone, from a soldier how

to treat gout, from a sailor how to keep off scurvy, from a postmaster how to sound the Eustachian tube, from a dairy maid how to prevent small-pox, and from an old market woman how to catch the itch insect; from the Japanese heathen the acupuncture and the moxa, and from the American savage the use of lobelia." The earliest accumulation of medical facts—the first medical books—were obtained from the public; they were the remedies and directions, collected and preserved in the ancient heathen temples.

In the earliest days of classic Greece the sick were brought from their homes, and placed on litters in the thronged marts of commerce; the passing, busy merchants, or the traveler of leisure, were begged to tell of any remedy that they may perchance have learned or heard of, that would benefit the case presented, or anything that would cure. If this remedy proved successful, its formula or name was preserved religiously under the care of the priests, with others obtained in like manner. Hippocrates, the sage of Cos, our medical father, born 460 B.C., is said to have studied these carefully, to his and our lasting advantage. I would tell the public that the science of medicine, has most willingly received every contribution; it is older, as I have said, than profane history. It has advanced steadily from a small beginning out of the dark arcades of the centuries.

It has often been hindered by superstition and ignorance. Under the control of this and then of that school of philosophy, sometimes advantageously, sometimes to its detriment. Protected by the priests of heathen times and in the middle ages.

Then, again, by them opposed, embarrassed, and made a mystery. Dragged down by superstition, and struggling with misconception, until now it illuminates the world—the study of the human frame, living and dead.

This knowledge, set forth with precise accuracy and followed up to a logical and practical sequence, with interpreters of nature such as Hippocrates, Sydenham, Harvey, Hunter, Bechat, and many others. We are the legitimate heirs of centuries of knowledge. The public should appreciate the labor, the earnest, studious work that our profession has undergone; the danger to the lives even of those who have advanced its knowledge to this present day. Labors and dangers that you, graduates, have already undergone.

Roisseau says, speaking of our profession, "There is no condition which requires more study than theirs." While it supports the one who exercises it, at the same time his scientific labors are connected with the best interests of humanity. No man is more useful, nor can any merit be more brilliant, nor should any be appreciated, above the good and great physician. He not only fulfils his duty in ordinary times, but when pestilence sweeps over the land, and in the roar and crash of battle. Who is greater practically than a skilful and learned physician—one calm, careful, yet bold, with an intellect bright and clear, a heart full of kindness, ministering to suffering in all gentleness and mercy—that compassionate heart and gentleness of manner, which Shakespeare calls the milk of human kindness. Unfeeling roughness in our profession, I am proud to say, is a great exception. Cicero, the greatest ornament of the Forum and the literature of Rome, the foremost orator and writer of Rome even in its most brilliant epoch said, two thousand years ago, "That men in no way approach nearer the gods than in giving health to their fellow men." "Homines ad deos, nulla re propius accedunt quam salutem hominibus dando." The prince of physicians says, "A philosophical physician is in manner a god." *ἡττορος γὰρ φιλοσοφὸς ἰαθεὺς*.

Dr. Johnson states, in his dignified way, "That every man has found in physicians great liberality and dignity of sentiment, very prompt effusion of beneficence, and willingness to exert a lucrative art when there is no hope of lucre." Voltaire, like Cicero, exclaims, "That the man who is occupied, in restoring health to his fellows from pure benevolence, is far above all the grandees of the earth, he belongs to the divinity." How much service we render to the public without compensation. One-half of nearly every physician's practice, no matter how distinguished, is for charity. Witness the arduous work in which he sometimes sacrifices his own life, in the clinics and hospitals. Serving in hospitals without pay, and often without any just appreciation.

You will be asked, gentlemen, by the laity, by the great public, your opinion about vivisection, and the value of it as regards any benefits that may accrue from it, to the human race. We, as a profession, are conservators of human life, and all our instincts from the earliest days of student life are cultivated, to prevent and relieve

suffering. As a class, none other is more fond of the brute creation. How often have I seen medical men in the cities and the country, in this and foreign lands, proud and fond of their dogs, their horses and their cattle. You and we have studied together, human anatomy and physiology thoroughly; we have investigated, in connection with them, comparative anatomy, so often furnishing valuable comparisons and illustrations.

We know that the machinery of all animals is similar. Even if not believers in evolution, we know that there is a wonderful similarity and grading of the anatomy from the lowest to the highest, or from the highest to the lowest. We know, also, that the vital spark, which in man we call the *vis anima*, the soul, is very similar in the highest and lowest, through all the chain of the animal creation. It sparkles in the flashing eye of the war-horse and is recognized in his shrill neigh, vying with the trumpet, or in the affectionate recognition, as the steed turns in his stall to his master, ready for the harness, or the saddle.

In the dog, man's faithful companion, how human, often, is his liquid eye of affection; how responsive the vital spark of his machinery to every action, every gesture, often even the emotion of his master. He thinks and seems to reason. His instinct sometimes even excels reason. So full of love is his being, that he will lay down his life for those to whom he is devoted.

As nothing is lost in the chemistry of organic and inorganic structure, when their bodies dissolve and disappear to assume new forms, the vital spark must be economized also. Sympathizing with the brute creation, the majority of our profession, I believe, are strong friends of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. All civilized communities have their laws, dealing with the subject of cruelty to animals. Great good have these done. Brutal men, more brutal than the brutes, have been checked and taught a consideration for suffering flesh.

Yet many benevolent and well meaning people and some sensationalists, have endeavored to create the impression that vivisectioners delight in giving pain to dumb animals. This may be answered by stating the fact, that in vivisection the operator requires all his attention to be devoted to the investigation, and it is to his interest that the animal should be tranquil. He therefore generally employs some anæsthetic—

ether or chloroform, or the hypodermatic injection of morphia or laudanum, whatever may be best suited.

I remember, when studying in Vienna in 1856, being strongly impressed with the care which the famous Brücke used, in saving animals from pain while he was experimenting upon them. The cries and struggles of the animal would often interfere with the method and success of the investigation.

Animals prey upon animals, from man down. From this standpoint the world seems a bloody one and full of carnage. Yet it is so ordered. If animals did not prey upon each other, and if man did not kill them, the world would be overrun with animals and vermin, and there would be no place for man. Animals take the lives of each other, and also of vegetables. It is right for us to kill animals that we may live. The world and all upon it was made for man. It is certainly right for those experienced men, who are devoting themselves to the study and working of the animal economy, and of the effects of drugs upon the structures, to use judiciously and mercifully the lives of the lower animals. To save the highest—man's—our lives. To study on the animated flesh of the brute the action of therapeutic agents, to know their power and use, to see and learn how and in what way, they may benefit man. I, for one, would not have animals tortured nor vivisectioned uselessly; but to make experiments on animals, in a merciful way, is much more benevolent than to rashly try them on human beings. My belief is, and I think that it accords with the judgment of the majority of the profession, that vivisection should be permitted, if properly performed, by those who are devoted to the study of physiological science; not ruthlessly, but under the control of mercy and sound judgment.

Ether was introduced into this city as the anæsthetic, while I was a student on the benches that you have just left. I recollect the experiments performed upon animals to test its effect. Notably those of Professor Charles D. Meigs, the distinguished Professor of Obstetrics of that time. He was opposed to the use of ether in his specialty, believing in and quoting the Scripture, "That in travail and in pain the child must be born." He experimented upon animals in the upper lecture-room—the amphitheatre. I recollect the amusement created in the class, by the struggles and resistance made

by a sturdy sheep, who, in bleating and butting, refused to be killed by ether, and trotted out as strong as ever. He thought giving ether was dangerous to life. But now, how wonderful the change. That which was once hesitatingly used, and tried upon animals, is now in every day and constant use. Woman is saved from suffering, and the most painful and dangerous operations are performed without the patient feeling the least pain. I can recollect the practice, when I have seen tartar emetic, tobacco, and bleeding used to reduce and relax a strong patient in certain conditions, where now it is done by a few whiffs of the anæsthetic.

Shakespeare says, "There was never yet a philosopher that could endure the toothache patiently." I have seen patients make themselves rapidly drunk, so as to be able to bear a painful manipulation or operation. Now, the anæsthetic does this decently and well, producing relaxation of the strongest muscles of the whole system. Not only is the feeling of pain removed, but what is really of more importance, the dread and anticipation of the pain.

In regard to scientific investigations we might even go farther. It is considered right to kill a human being as a legal punishment; that the law shall murder him who has been a murderer. Of the correctness of this I have great doubt, as so many innocent persons have been killed from the misconception of circumstantial evidence. The reflection was once made upon our profession that we buried our mistakes.

Dr. Warren (Bey) replied to the legal gentleman, "Yes; but the mistakes of the law are hung upon the gallows." The putting to death of a criminal by law does not seem to prevent murder. The hanging spectacle, was formerly an amusement to the dangerous class. But if killing must be done for the benefit of society, I think that it should be done in a more scientific and less brutal manner. If done scientifically, with some form of anæsthetic, valuable physiological knowledge might be gained.

How great an obligation, is the public under to our profession for its adoption and use of ether. Thoughtless and satirical people sometimes cast gibes at us, and imply that we make our subsistence from the sufferings of people, and rather like to see such suffering. That the surgeon is cold-hearted and cruel, and loves to cut for the sake of cutting, without regard to the suffering he causes. You

graduates are witnesses that this is false. In our great clinics, at the Jefferson Medical College Hospital, how careful we are to save suffering; how constantly we use ether, and often insist upon its use, to a patient whose strong nerves can bear pain or who dreads becoming unconscious. Our efforts are always directed to save suffering. How eagerly was the use of ether, as an anæsthetic, adopted by our profession.

Whether Long, Wells, Morton, or Jackson was the first to introduce ether as the anæsthetic to our profession and to the world, it is to the great honor of our country that it was first done within her borders. A priceless boon, a most beneficent gift from the Almighty. The greatest discovery I think that was ever made in the world; far exceeding in value the discovery of the steam engine, or the use of electricity. Life and death relieved of agony; pain and suffering almost banished from the world; the old primeval curse greatly removed. A grand step toward the millenium. The public appreciates its value now well; but not so much as we, of our profession. How much less does the physician and the surgeon dread encountering suffering; how much easier in his soul is the surgeon now that he knows he will not give pain. How much more calmly and carefully can he now operate, to cure a deformity or to save valuable lives. How many more difficult and conservative operations to limb and life are now invented and undertaken, when the question of pain does not require consideration.

Dr. Crawford W. Long, of Athens, Ga., who studied medicine in Philadelphia, and graduated in 1839, at the University of Pennsylvania, performed the first surgical operation under ether.* He did this with intention and forethought, upon a Mr. James Venable, of Jefferson, Ga. The first public demonstration of the value of ether as the anæsthetic, was made by Drs. Warren, Hayward and Bigelow, in the Massachusetts General Hospital, October, 1846.

The discovery then first burst upon the world, and its greatness was soon appreciated. Ether was recommended by Dr. Morton, the dentist, and given by him, though at the suggestion of Dr. Jackson, the chemist.

Horace Wells, Doctor of Dentistry, confined his attention to the anæsthesia produced by

* The Discovery of Anæsthesia, by J. Marion Sims, M.D., etc.

nitrous oxide gas. It is most happily now employed extensively by our sister profession, in its benevolent and skilful operations. Jackson is now in an insane asylum; Morton died from congestion of the brain, produced by worry; Horace Wells committed suicide in despair in New York City. Dr. Crawford W. Long, I believe, is still alive, but greatly reduced in means from losses occurring during the civil war.*

On the famous Boston Common, I have seen a monument to Anæsthesia. No name is there inscribed to honor the discoverer or discoverers of this use of ether. I would respectfully suggest that the names in the order that I have given them, should be there inscribed. Farther, to prove that republics are not ungrateful, do you, the public, do your duty, through Congress, and make a suitable grant of money to the families of these great benefactors of the whole human race. Sir James Y. Simpson, for the subsequent discovery of chloroform, as an anæsthetic, was promptly rewarded by the appreciating British government. Why should our republic be ungrateful?

Anæsthesia is like the

"Sleep, that knits up the raveled sleeve of care,
The death of each day's life, sore labor's bath,
Balm of hurt minds, great nature's second course,
Chief nourisher of life's feast."

Cervantes makes Sancho Panza say, "Blessed is the man who first invented sleep, it covers one all over as with a blanket:" but thrice blessed, I say, the man or men who first demonstrated this use of ether; the place and the country in which it was first used, to produce the sleep of anæsthesia. Thus relieving and preventing the pain and suffering incident to human life. Medicine is older than profane history. There is no reliable historical work describing its first beginning. When Father Adam gave up paradise to follow Mother Eve in their struggle for existence, simple remedies must have been used to control feverish symptoms, or lotions to soothe bruises and cuts, or the spot from which some thorn had been extracted. But in sacred writ is described, the deep sleep that fell upon Adam, when his rib was taken out to make Mother Eve. By this it is understood, that Adam was in an anæsthetic sleep. By this it seems the anæsthesia of the present day was foreshadowed; and some from

this exsection of the rib, may claim priority upon the earth, for surgery over medicine. Some have slanderously said, what a great pity, that lovely woman, was made from a crooked rib. Slander indeed, for as Sir Walter sings in Marmion:—

"Ah woman, in our hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please,
And variable as the shade,
By the light quivering aspen made,
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou."

The question of cremation is now before the public, and the opinion of our profession is sought in regard to it. You will be expected, gentlemen, to give an opinion upon the question. In our own country and in England or in Germany, it has been practised to some extent, and some prominent people have given it their sanction. A distinguished Emeritus Professor* of our College has indorsed it by his precept and example. The great body of our profession are however opposed to it upon, I think, most reasonable grounds. There is no doubt that if it was the universal practice, death by poisoning might become more frequent. The murderer might more easily escape. The body once cremated, would hide in its ashes every vestige of the cause of death. If suspicion should arise, some time after the demise of an individual murdered, there would be no opportunity of exhuming and making a chemical investigation. I feel assured even, that the practice of making *post-mortems* would be forbidden and become obsolete. This is denied by the supporters of cremation, but history proves the contrary.

In the latter days of Greece and Rome, when this was the practice, the dead were regarded with superstitious feelings. No examination of the body was permitted. So utterly impossible was it to investigate the human body in any way, that Galen was obliged to cross the Mediterranean Sea, to Egypt, to see and examine a human skeleton. Even in that land, the most advanced in science at that time—when Alexandria was adorned by its great school and the famous library, during the reign of the Ptolmeys—the embalmers were obliged to flee from the mob after fulfilling their duties, glad to escape from the shower of missiles with their lives. By this practice of

* J. Marion Sims.

* Emeritus Prof. S. D. Gross, M.D., D.C.L. Oxon. LL.D. Cantab., etc.

embalming some human anatomy was learned, and Alexandria ultimately became the great school of anatomy of that time.

It has been the means of preserving important knowledge. The coverings of the mummies have given occupation to the scholar, and valuable information to our generation.

On the other side of the world from us—in India—the British government has been obliged to forbid by law the practice of the *Suttee*. Not only from the question of humanity—to save the unfortunate wife from being burned alive with the dead body of her husband—but, I have seen it stated, for the purpose of preventing murder by poisoning. The cremation of the dead having been found so often to be used to hide the murder. During any great pestilence, making its holocaust of victims, and when the ordinary burial might possibly invite its continuance, cremation may be useful, and even necessary; or when the number of the dead are so great, that the living are too few to give the usual sepulture. But, in the course of ordinary events, there are strong scientific grounds of objection. If it became the fashion and the custom, the unclaimed dead would be cremated likewise, and all opportunities for the pursuit of anatomical science would be lost. Without the cultivation of anatomy and physiology our medical science would come to a standstill. It was not until the anatomy of the human body was understood, that any real and valuable advance was made in medicine. To relieve disease, to cure deformities, to cut away malignant growths, to amputate limbs successfully, requires a knowledge of anatomy. The first knowledge necessary for the medical man, and a knowledge that he must retain more or less completely during all his medical career. Other things being equal, the better the anatomist the greater the surgeon will be. The *post-mortem* follows as a necessary scientific sequence. Every one of the public must know, that to be able to examine the causes which produced death, must be of the greatest value in making medical men to know, what they have to combat; the conditions needing treatment, and above all, if the means used have been adapted to the necessity; if they have benefited, or the contrary.

Every regular physician is always anxious for such a test. The public have become educated to appreciate the importance of it. Such

examinations are conducted with such delicacy and propriety in our great centres, that they are almost always easily obtained, and in many cases are requested by the friends of the patient. Thus they can learn if there are any hereditary or constitutional conditions existing. Information of great value for the preservation of the descendants; also if everything that could have been done was done. The real and true advance of civilization and intelligence, is to have a *post-mortem* made in every case. A severe test of the practitioner's knowledge and skill. This the regular physician desires and courts, as he is only seeking for knowledge and truth, and conscientiously to do the best, that can be done. *

The suggestion made, that interments may endanger the health of our water supply is not valid either. Dust to dust, is the solemn statement, and so it is. Soon the once vital clay, mingles with that of mother Earth. The earth is a great purifier. It has been shown by one of our distinguished alumni, Dr. Adinell Hewson, that it can have useful applications in many surgical conditions.

We all know how soothing an application it is, to the acid poison of the insect's sting. Did our Saviour not make mud and anoint the eyes of the blind, as he performed the miracle of restoring sight. The Schuylkill has never been poisoned or contaminated by Laurel Hill, but from other causes that ought to be checked. The work of the living is often far more poisonous than the results of burial. At Laurel Hill, in the beautiful Wissahickon gorge, an interesting geological region, as any one can observe, the dip of the strata is towards the north. As the rain descends, the water, percolating through the strata, flows north, away from the city. Even intra-mural burial grounds, which apparently are more objectionable, have their advantage. They keep open spaces in the great cities; these, adorned with shrubs and stately trees, are quoting Burke's great phrase, "Lungs for the city."

We have plenty of room yet in our neighborhood, for beautiful burying grounds. When the land becomes crowded with the living, so that there is no place for the sacred dead, then will it be time enough to establish cremation, and not until then. The real advance in funeral obsequies at the present time, I believe to be not in cremation, but in a simple form of burial. In place of heavy and costly caskets,

light wicker ones should be used, they can be made easily strong enough to carry the modestly robed contents. This will make a revolution in regard to expense—a great boon to the poor classes—and will allow the dust to mingle more rapidly with its parent dust.

Gentlemen, I have set forth some of the relations of the public to our profession. When it is sufficiently educated, its good, common sense will appreciate our science at its proper value. It will not then distress us by following vulgar quackeries, which will disappear one after the other, like dead twigs falling from a tree and wafted into space. All of the public are not wise, “Cent imbeciles, ne font Pas un sage,” says Voltaire. A hundred imbeciles do not make a wise man. The wise men, however, direct and educate the masses, and develop its good sense. To the good, common sense of the public we now commend you. I trust that it will give every one of you a hearty welcome. The public must have doctors. “Doctors are human; they become worn out in service, and the public must have new ones.” There is room for all of you, in our great and growing country. You will be needed, as we send you away from us, as apostles to the North, South, East, and West. Control your hearts with patience, using your time wisely and well. Your time must come, and as it has been said, “There is always room at the top.” We welcome talent and genius most cordially into our ranks. But even “a man of moderate ability may be a good physician, and perhaps a safer practitioner than one, we will say, who has five per cent. more brains than his average neighbor, but thinks it is fifty per cent.”* Each one of you can add something to our science or practice.

The more you apply yourselves, the more will you appreciate knowledge. Bacon says of philosophy, “When superficially studied it excites doubt, when thoroughly explored it dispels it.” So is it with the philosophical study of medicine:

It may be interesting to this audience, and it is appropriate to this occasion, to quote what was said to the young men of many centuries gone by. Good old Prince Phtah-hotep,† son of a king of the fifth dynasty, the next after the pyramid dynasty, wrote a moral treatise of advice to the young people of four thousand years

ago. This book, now preserved in Paris, is believed to be the oldest in the world.

He said, forty centuries ago, “The obedient son shall grow old and obtain favor. Thus have I myself become an old man on earth, and have lived one hundred and ten years in favor with the King and approved by my seniors.” “If thou art become great, after thou hast been humble, and if thou hast amassed riches after poverty, being because of that the first in thy town. If thou art known for thy wealth, and art become a great lord, let not thy heart become proud, because of thy riches, for it is God who is the author of them. Despise not another, who is as thou wast; be towards him as toward an equal.”

Also, “Let thy face be cheerful as long as thou livest; has any one come out of the coffin after having entered it?”

The most celebrated Egyptian book, named the “Book of the Manifestation of Light,” or the “Book of the Dead,” makes the soul defend itself before Osiris.*

The soul, having wandered to and fro, finally joins its preserved, mummified body, and, standing before Osiris, was judged favorably when it could say in its defense:—

“I have not been idle; I have not been intoxicated; I have not told secrets; I have not told falsehoods; I have not defrauded; I have not slandered; I have not caused tears; I have given food to the hungry, drink to the thirsty, and clothes to the naked.”

The rejected soul went back to the earth in the form of the pig, or some unclean animal.

The public looks with some hesitation upon the young doctor. Not, however, with as much as in former years. It knows now that some of the greatest work done in the world has been accomplished by young men. It reads of the great achievements of Alexander, Hannibal, and Bonaparte, while they were still young men. Descartes at twenty-one distinguished himself in mathematics; Vesalius was twenty-four years old when he developed his

* Professor Oliver Wendell Holmes.

† Barnes's General History.

* The most widely worshipped triads of Egypt were Osiris, Isis, and Horus. The god Osiris went about the earth doing good, until he was persecuted and slain by Set, or Typhon, his brother, whose emblem was the pig, the ass, and the hippopotamus. Osiris' wife, Isis, by her prayers assisted in his resurrection, and finally Horus, his son, avenged his wrongs by destroying Typhon. The soul having wandered to and fro from its mummified body during the day-time at will, and at others migrating through the body of the hawk, the heron, the serpent, the crocodile, the crane, and the lotus flower, all symbols of deity finally joined its mummified body and stood before Osiris.

wonderful anatomical work; Bichat died in his thirty-first year; Newton at twenty-three first thought of the principle of gravitation, as he saw an apple fall from a tree. The public now recognize, that young men can be admirably prepared for the practice of our profession, in the great centres of medical science. It is a good thing for a young physician to associate himself as an assistant, with an experienced practitioner of medicine or surgery. He will not only thus gain experience more rapidly, but the public will become sooner acquainted with him and his merits. This waiting time, although vexatious to the ambitious young doctor, is time really of great value to him. Then can he lay the foundation of his future success and distinction. Then should he be by studying up his cases thoroughly, perfect the knowledge gained as an undergraduate. Master French and German, the knowledge of which will open up great stores of scientific and literary knowledge, and assist him notably some day in his relations with the public. The poor must be attended to. Their lives are as valuable to them as to the rich. The father and mother may be even more important, for the protection and education of the children, as they are their only protectors. It is to the honor of our profession, that it goes to the service of the poor, as freely as to that of the rich and the high-born. It is your privilege, that of the young physician, to have them for your first patrons. In difficult cases, you can always have the aid of the oldest and most distinguished practitioner. The poor first make your reputation. It is a curious fact, that, as a rule, there is no successful practitioner who has not first made his reputation with the poor. No matter how old a man may be, or how great his reputation for scientific lore, he can not at once step into a large and remunerative practice. He may have consultations, but for active and constant occupation in practice, he must commence at the bottom. He must slowly acquire the confidence of the community in which he lives. "*Nihil per saltum.*" He must go step by step. During this time of waiting and preparation, you are arranging the future of your lives.

When the proper time arrives, you can choose among the fair daughters of America a good helpmate. Do so judiciously, and it will be for your permanent happiness. It will also aid you in your success. There is a pretty

story* told of Flaxman, the great artist. When he married, and in his honeymoon, Sir Joshua Reynolds, the President of the Royal Academy, said to him, "You are ruined for an artist." Sir Joshua was a bachelor, and probably a crusty one. When Flaxman told this to his wife, she answered, "A great artist you shall be, and visit Rome too, if that is really necessary to make you great." "But how?" asked Flaxman. "Work and economize," replied the brave wife; "I will never have it said that Ann Denham ruined John Flaxman for an artist." Flaxman did go to Rome, and became a great artist.

The public have more confidence in a married man. It feels that he has given bonds to society for his life's conduct. A perfect American woman is, I believe, the finest type of womanhood in the world. May each of you be blessed with a good American wife, a good helpmate. May her graceful figure and loving sympathy, brighten your happy home. May her sweet face, beaming with love and gentleness, welcome you cheerily to your fireside, and beam more brightly for your coming. May your home—that word so full of tender meaning, home—even if it be simple, be decorated by your loved one's taste. May it be made a brilliant, a happy and a sweet home, by the gracious amiability and the unselfish devotion of your wife, who is then your crown and greatest ornament.

Gentlemen, you have to-day passed through a momentous epoch of your lives. To-day is the commencement of a new career. In looking back happy are you, as you can face the retrospect with satisfaction, for now you can go on cheerfully to the unknown future. Man's life is a pilgrimage, a journey between the gates of life and death. All that we know positively, is the present, all the rest is faith, founded on revelation, which speaks of that something after death; that bourne from which no traveler returns. So we must act in the living present, and as nobly as we can. In this journey every day, as we march onward to the final halt, brings its responsibilities and its duties, its troubles and its pleasures. I hold we should endeavor to do a man's part, with what aid from above and around that is vouchsafed us; act as bravely and as well as we can. This, I think, is the wise theory and

practice. The unknown beyond, is unknown, so as not to tempt the suicidal hand. We are placed here, each one to fill a niche, larger or smaller.

Coming by a command independent of our own will, and without our wishes apparently being consulted. Each one should do the work, little or great, that is ordained to him, in aiding the world's progress and the happiness of his fellow men. You must be generous in victory, and magnanimous in defeat. Life is a battle. Your energies, sharpened by the struggle, are thus stimulated to still greater exertions; each of us doing his best, though that may be individually small; yet in the aggregate, by all combined endeavors, the world moves on; civilization advances; society makes a still greater development. Contrast the ancient times with ours; how now the earth is peopled, covered with the nations, and their great cities; how time and space almost seem as if they might be mastered by the means of steam and electricity. What great discoveries may next come, we may not yet know; but each of us filling well our sphere, is working towards and contributing of his strength to their development. The doctrine of the correlation of forces is being established; the evolution theory is being investigated; chemistry and physiology are being perfected; mechanical inventions are accumulating. We are sailing the air with balloons of greater capacity and power, and by astronomy are learning more and more in regard to the planets mapped out in the ether, around and beyond the sun.

In the old world are wars and rumors of wars; the excitement and unsettled condition of the lower classes; the seething and fuming of the socialists and anarchists, and vile assassinations by dynamiters and nihilists. Here, over our own beloved country, peace still spreads her pure pinions. Well may we be proud that we are Americans. From the early heroic days of our Continental forefathers; through the wonderful development of our country, even when governed by an aggressive slave power; in the second heroic period, when that power was overthrown by a mighty struggle; in which the bravery and endurance, and the ultimate magnanimity of North and South have developed their mutual respect. And now, without the clang of arms or hostile shouts, a new revolution has quietly taken place. This last peaceful revolution of the fourth of

March. It must be a wonder to the whole civilized world—the old majority yielding quietly to the new majority. A great party, dominant for about twenty-four years, and glorious with a record of wondrous deeds, yields to its rival, and accepts peacefully the decision of the ballot-box. As patriots, we look earnestly for the good promised by this party revolution. A change of household goods and service, is sometimes for the better. May it prove to the advantage of our country! May confidence be assured, and the arts and works of peace flourish throughout the land, to all its borders! May we become more united and harmonious at home, more respected and feared abroad!

As man looks at himself and his works, he feels grand and important, and in ancient days, it is said, was so foolish as to try to build that tower of Babel, on which he wished to scale the skies. We must not now, in the conceit of our advancing knowledge, try to build an intellectual tower of Babel. We can no more now, than then, scale the skies or unveil the mysteries of the future. Eight years ago, during the Paris International Exhibition, I ascended several hundred feet in the air, in the captive balloon. It was fastened by a wire cable, in the Place de Tuileries. As the walls of the ruined palace seemed to sink below me, the hills and fertile plains surrounding Paris, expanded themselves before my eyes. When I looked down, the multitude in the Rue de Rivoli and in the garden of the Tuileries looked like little, tiny black flies fastened to the pavement, and without any perspective. How small a mite is man, compared to the earth on which he lives and dies. The earth, a planet twenty-four thousand miles in circumference, that makes day and night by turning on its axis; moving around the sun, wheel-like, at the rate of sixty-seven thousand miles an hour. Yet we do not fly off at a tangent, and can hardly comprehend the fact, and with still more difficulty, that we are distant in the earth's aphelion ninety-three millions of miles.* With the same difficulty, that large as the earth is, there are Neptune and Uranus, ringed Saturn and four-mooned Jupiter, larger than it; Jupiter, the largest, being twelve hundred times as large as the earth. Besides, what myriads of little worlds, spangle the deep azure

* Appleton's Encyclopedia.

of the sky at night, making the ethereal vault beautiful with their twinkling light!

How small a mite is man compared with the solar system! How wonderfully great must be that Almighty power, which sends whirling through space great worlds, each in its own orbit, one not interfering with the other, and fulfilling the purpose intended in its creation! How impressed should we all be with the fact, that we are weak creatures, and dependent upon a higher power; that we have our own little life to live, our own duty to perform; that we will live that life to the best of our ability, and do that duty to the utmost!

On this auspicious day of your "Comminement," with all the past behind you, and your future, with all its bright promise just in view, you can join with Tennyson in his joyous song to the past year—

Ring out wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light,
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold,
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

And now, gentlemen, on behalf of my colleagues and myself, I will say farewell; that lingering word, so full of tenderness. Yet when kindly said, in earnest, friendly tones, so full of pleasant retrospect, to bind those parting with memory's mystic chain. Though years may spread their mantle over us, and age may dim our senses; though lands may separate us, or oceans sweep between; yet in recalling the farewell said, lands and oceans disappear, and time lifts its sombre curtain; again the moment of parting returns—the scene itself—the many pleasing recollections of the past association, that ended in and made it worthy of the farewell.

May it fare well with you, gentlemen; may each of you return to a happy

"Home, the resort

Of love, of joy, and plenty, where
Supporting and supported, polished friends
And dear relations mingle into bliss."

May you, who now leave your *Alma Mater*, with her blessing on your students' life, to begin a new career, may all success attend you. May the honorable commencement of a most honorable career lead but to new honors, strewn thickly around your path in life. May all eyes

beam kindly on you. May your noble thoughts and gentle deeds, crown you anew with the laurel. When the last dread summons comes, may men say to each other a light has gone out from our midst, and may your world feel the darkness. Reverently, I say, may God's blessing be upon you; may every happiness cheer you on your way, as you go forth on your beneficent mission to assuage the sufferings, close the wounds, and heal the infirmities of the weak, the afflicted, and the injured!

GRADUATES OF THE JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE.

THE Degree of Doctor of Medicine was conferred on the following gentlemen, by E. B. Gardette, M.D., President of the Institution:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Able, Samuel V..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Alexander, William H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Awes, James S..... | Massachusetts. |
| Bair, Philip W. O..... | Illinois. |
| Baldinger, William H..... | Texas. |
| Barr, John Chalmers..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Beatty, Franklin T..... | Massachusetts. |
| Beatty, Henry A..... | New Jersey. |
| Black, William M..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Bleiler, Charles Alfred..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Boardman, Walter..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Bogle, William H..... | Kansas. |
| Bolton, Mayland..... | North Carolina. |
| Bower, Charles H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Bower, Collier Lewis..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Bower, T. Charles..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Brandau, John..... | Tennessee. |
| Brinke, G. per C..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Brown, George S..... | Missouri. |
| Burd, Louis..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Burns, Silas..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Bush, Charles B..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Cantrell, John Abbott..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Capp, William M..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Chapin, Samuel L..... | Illinois. |
| Collins, William W..... | New York. |
| Cooper, James Rudolph..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Cooper, William R..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Cornish, Percy G..... | Alabama. |
| Cox, William C..... | Washington Ty. |
| Coyle Robert..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Cronin, Joseph J..... | Massachusetts. |
| Cunningham, Hugh C..... | Texas. |
| Da Costa, John Chalmers..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Dahlstroem, Max..... | Germany. |
| Davis, Theodore G..... | New Jersey. |
| Day, Frank B..... | Indiana. |
| Donaldson, Robert M..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Dougherty, John A..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Downes, Andrew J..... | Massachusetts. |
| Dunning, James H..... | Indiana. |
| Earley, Charles R..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Earley, Francis G..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Endlich, William F..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Enterline, John H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Everett, Milton H..... | Illinois. |
| Fair, John F..... | Illinois. |
| Fairchild, Courland de N..... | Massachusetts. |
| Ferguson, Robert Vaughan..... | Kentucky. |
| Ferris, Edgar S..... | Indiana. |
| Fitch, Dorsey P..... | West Virginia. |
| Flagg, Payson J..... | Massachusetts. |
| Fruh, Carl D. S..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Fuller, Harry C..... | Pennsylvania. |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Garey, Jacob H..... | Pennsylvania. | Shollenberger, Charles F..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Getchell, Albert C..... | Maine. | Shull, William Milton..... | Pennsylvania. |
| German, Howard W..... | Pennsylvania. | Simms, Benjamin B..... | Alabama. |
| Gilbert, Elton B..... | Illinois. | Simons, Arthur J..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Gillespie, James S..... | Pennsylvania. | Smith, H. Winchel..... | New Jersey. |
| Grander, Frederick L..... | Pennsylvania. | Scoy, John Milton..... | New Jersey. |
| Green, Dennis S..... | Minnesota. | Stern, Max J..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Green, Sylvanus H..... | Pennsylvania. | St. wart, John O..... | Scotland. |
| Greenwald, Daniel F..... | Pennsylvania. | Stewart, Joseph J..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Griffith, Martin Edmund..... | Pennsylvania. | Stoner, Harry..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Hackney, Jacob S..... | Pennsylvania. | Stoner, James Buchanan..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Harding, Henry..... | Pennsylvania. | Stroud Frank G..... | New Jersey. |
| Harter, John C..... | Iowa. | Stroup, J. Calvin..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Hartman, George F..... | Pennsylvania. | Swygert, Sanders L..... | South Carolina. |
| Heffner, Oliver O..... | New Jersey. | Taylor, Joseph M..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Henry, George W..... | Pennsylvania. | Throckmorton, Charles M..... | Iowa. |
| Henry, John..... | Pennsylvania. | Torkington, Joseph..... | England. |
| Hetrich, George..... | Pennsylvania. | Trumbauer, Albert H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Hill, Jacob F..... | Pennsylvania. | Tunison, Geoffrey Orlando..... | New Jersey. |
| Holt, Camillus L..... | Texas. | Vander Horck, Max P..... | Minnesota. |
| Hudson, Leonard A..... | Delaware. | Walker, Benjamin Franklin..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Huffman, Lucius D..... | Kentucky. | Walker, Dale L..... | Ohio. |
| Humphries, S. Osceola..... | Alabama. | Walker, Richard P..... | Missouri. |
| Hurd, Frank H..... | Ohio. | Walton, Levi S..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Hustead, Ashbel F..... | West Virginia. | Warder, Charles B..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Huyett, Herman J..... | Illinois. | Waterman, Francis C..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Ingram, Theodore E..... | Pennsylvania. | Way, Julius..... | New Jersey. |
| Ireland, Andrew B..... | Pennsylvania. | Weaver, John D..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Jordan, David B..... | North Carolina. | Wheeler, Walter Sewell..... | Missouri. |
| Judson, Andrew Rice..... | New Jersey. | Williams, Evan..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Kaufman, Walter L..... | Pennsylvania. | Williams, J. Franklin..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Kent, Alfred A..... | North Carolina. | Wilson, James H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Kirkland, John A..... | Illinois. | Wright, Robert Lee..... | Tennessee. |
| Kugler, George W., Jr..... | New Jersey. | Wright, Thomas Briggs, Jr..... | Kentucky. |
| La Fon, Thomas F..... | Missouri. | Yokum, Humboldt..... | West Virginia. |
| Lake, David H..... | Pennsylvania. | Zauner, Robert H..... | Pennsylvania. |
| Lamb, Albert Victor..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Lang, Robert H..... | Kentucky. | | |
| La Roe, Franklin..... | Ohio. | | |
| Lecrone, Harris R..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Leidy, Edwui D..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| McCahay, Peter..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| McCandless, Henry M..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| McDonald, John M..... | Ohio. | | |
| McDougall, Charles S..... | Ohio. | | |
| McElwee, Henry W..... | Virginia. | | |
| McGlenn, J. Averill..... | Ohio. | | |
| McIlhaney, William H..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| McLaughlin, Robert J..... | Illinois. | | |
| Marsh, George D..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Martin, Ambrose H..... | Canada. | | |
| Martin, George..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Martin, Howard B..... | New Jersey. | | |
| Maxwell, William E..... | Alabama. | | |
| Mears, Daniel W..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Miller, Henry B..... | Ohio. | | |
| Miller, James, Calvin..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Millikin, Thomas N..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Mong, Elmer E..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Morton, Thomas J..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Moyer, John L. S..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Murray, Thomas Walker..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Mykrantz, Howard B..... | Ohio. | | |
| Nance, George B..... | North Carolina. | | |
| Oliver, John Edward..... | Missouri. | | |
| Orr, Joseph D..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Phillips, Lewis Oliver..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Porter, John..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Pyle, Jerome L..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Reading, George Evans..... | New Jersey. | | |
| Reed, Anderson F..... | Missouri. | | |
| Reinhard, Wilson J..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Rhoads, J. Neely..... | Delaware. | | |
| Rich, Guy C..... | New York. | | |
| Richardson, Davis H..... | Maryland. | | |
| Richardson, James..... | Delaware. | | |
| Ritter, William Elmer..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Riveley, Martin Pierce..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Rogers, Elmer H..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Ross, James Thweatt..... | Georgia. | | |
| Rugh, Carroll B..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Sawin, Robert V..... | Massachusetts. | | |
| Scholl, Alfred K..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Sheets, Everett W..... | Pennsylvania. | | |
| Sheppey, John V..... | Delaware. | | |
| Shimavonian, Samuel..... | Armenia. | | |

The following prizes were awarded:—

1. Faculty Prize of \$200, for the highest attainments in all departments, to Peter McCahay, of Pennsylvania.
2. A prize of \$100, by Lea Brothers & Co., for the best Thesis, to Andrew J. Downes, of Massachusetts; with honorable mention of the Thesis of Samuel V. Able, of Pennsylvania.
3. A prize of a Gold Medal, by R. J. Levis, M.D., for the best Report of his Surgical Clinics at the Pennsylvania Hospital, to Max J. Stern, of Pennsylvania; with honorable mention of the Report of Frank B. Day, of Indiana.
4. A prize of a Gold Medal, by Thomas G. Morton, M.D., for the best Report of his Surgical Clinics at the Pennsylvania Hospital, to Joseph D. Orr, of Pennsylvania; with honorable mention of the Reports of Leonard A. Hudson, of Delaware, and John Edward Oliver, of Missouri.
5. A Gold Medal, for the best Essay on a subject pertaining to the Practice of Medicine, to Max P. Vander Horck, of Minnesota; with honorable mention of the Thesis of T. Briggs Wright, of Kentucky, and G. Orlando Tunison, of New Jersey.
6. A Gold Medal, for the best Anatomical preparation, to Samuel Shimavonian, of Armenia.
7. A Gold Medal, for the best original research in the Chemical Laboratory, to Andrew B. Ireland, of Pennsylvania.
8. A Case of Instruments, for the best original research in the Materia Medica Laboratory, to Henry M. Beatty, of New Jersey, with honorable mention of the Thesis of John A. Dougherty, of Pennsylvania, and William H. Baldringer, of Texas.
9. A Case of Instruments, for the best Essay on a subject pertaining to Physiology, to Theodore G. Davis, of New Jersey; with honorable mention of the Essay of George S. Brown, of Missouri.
10. A Case of Instruments, for the best Essay on a subject pertaining to Surgery, to Albert C. Getchell, of Maine.
11. A Case of Instruments, for the best Essay on a subject pertaining to Obstetrics, etc., to Charles F. Shollenberger, of Pennsylvania.
12. A Case of Instruments, for the best Essay on a Pathological Subject, to Martin P. Kively, of Pennsylvania; with honorable mention of the Essay of Robert Coyle, of Pennsylvania.

The address before the Alumni Association was delivered by Dr. J. G. Holland, of Louisville, Ky., on the evening of April 1st, after which the orator was entertained at dinner by the officers and members of the Association.